

\*AR 56-1  
\*OPNAVINST 4620.8C  
\*AFR 75-47  
\*MCO 4600.30C

ARMY REGULATION  
No. 56-1  
OPNAV INSTRUCTION  
No. 4620.8C  
AIR FORCE REGULATION  
No. 45-47  
MARINE CORPS ORDER  
No. 4600.30C

DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY,  
THE NAVY,  
AND  
THE AIR FORCE

WASHINGTON, DC, 15 July 1982

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

### USE OF INTERMODAL CONTAINERS, SPECIAL PURPOSE VANS, AND TACTICAL SHELTERS

*This revision implements DOD Instruction 4500.37 at the appendix. Local limited supplementation of this regulation is permitted, but is not required. If supplements are issued, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps Staff agencies and major commands will furnish one copy of each to the following: HQDA, The Deputy Chief of for Logistics (DALO-TSM); HQ Navy, The Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics) (NOP-414); HQ USAF, The Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics and Engineering (AF/LETTC); and HQ USMC, The Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics (MC-LFT), as applicable.*

*Interim changes to this regulation are not official unless authenticated by The Adjutant General. Users will destroy interim changes on their expiration dates unless sooner superseded or rescinded.*

**1. Purpose.** This regulation provides uniform policies and procedures governing the use and procurement of DOD-owned or leased containers and commercial container services for the surface transportation of DOD cargo and the configuration of tactical shelters and special purpose vans.

**2. Scope.** This regulation provides broad policy guidance to the military services for use and procurement of DOD owned or long-term leased (over 90 days) containers among the elements of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

**3. Applicability.** The regulation applies to all Active and Reserve Components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps involved in surface transportation.

**4. Responsibilities.** a. The military services

will insure that guidance in appendix A is implemented in their respective Services.

b. The agencies shown below are responsible for forwarding container and associated equipment procurement and lease requests to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics).

(1) The Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, HQDA.

(2) The Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics), HQ Navy.

(3) The Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics and Engineering, HQ USAF.

(4) The Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics, HQ USMC.

c. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, HQDA, has overall administrative responsibility for this regulation.

\*This regulation supersedes AR 56-1, OPNAVINST 4620.8B, AFR 75-7, MCO 4600.30B, 3 March 1977.

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APPENDIX A



March 17, 1981

NUMBER 4500.37

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## Department of Defense Instruction ASD(MRA&L)

SUBJECT: Use of Intermodal Containers, Special-Purpose Vans, and Tactical Shelters

- References:
- (a) DoD Instruction 4500.37, "Ownership and Use of Containers for Surface Transportation and Configuration of Shelters/Special-Purpose Vans," August 31, 1976 (hereby canceled)
  - (b) DoD Directive 4500.9, "Transportation and Traffic Management," June 28, 1976
  - (c) DoD Instruction 4100.33, "Operation of Commercial and Industrial-Type Activities," February 25, 1980
  - (d) DoD Instruction 4500.41, "Transportation Container Adaptation and Systems Development Management," April 16, 1976
  - (e) DoD Directive 3224.1, "Engineering for Transportability," November 29, 1977
  - (f) DoD Directive 5160.10, "Single Manager Assignment for Ocean Transportation," March 24, 1967
  - (g) DoD Directive 5160.53, "Single Manager Assignment for Military Traffic, Land Transportation, and Common-User Ocean Terminals," March 24, 1967

### A. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Instruction:

1. Reissues reference (a) to list those tactical shelters that have been approved as part of the DoD Standard Family of Tactical Shelters.
2. Updates policies and procedures governing the use and procurement of DoD-owned or leased containers and commercial container services for the surface transportation of DoD cargo, in consonance with the provisions of references (b) and (c).

### B. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

1. The provisions of this Instruction apply to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), the Unified and Specified Commands, and the Defense Agencies (hereafter referred to as "DoD Components"). The term "Military Services," as used herein, includes the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.
2. The provisions encompass DoD policies for use of intermodal containers, special-purpose vans, and tactical shelters.

### C. DEFINITIONS

Terms used in this Instruction are contained in enclosure 1.

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D. POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. General

a. In accordance with the basic principle of free competitive enterprise, the DoD policy is to rely primarily upon the use of container resources and services furnished by the commercial transportation industry when it is responsive to military requirements.

b. The Secretary of Defense determines the level of peacetime use of containers based on the recommendations of the JCS and/or Services, with respect to the mix of transportation resources required for contingencies.

c. Containers used in transporting military cargo shall be subject to the following considerations:

(1) Containerized shipment shall be the preferred method, unless cost effectiveness or peculiar shipment requirements are an overriding factor.

(2) The need to make optimum use of the the Military Sealift Command (MSC)-controlled fleet and U.S. commercial containership fleet to ensure their availability and capability to meet peacetime, contingency, and wartime requirements.

(3) The need to make optimum use of organic or controlled military terminals and other facilities, to ensure the readiness of such resources to meet peacetime, contingency, and wartime requirements.

d. The use of foreign flag carriers for containerized service shall be in accordance with the provisions of paragraph D.3.b. of DoD Directive 4500.9 (reference (b)). Foreign flag carriers shall not be used for containerized shipments when U.S. flag breakbulk ships are available and capable of meeting the military requirement. In these cases, cargo shall be shipped as breakbulk on the U.S. flag carriers, rather than as foreign flag containerized cargo.

e. The twenty-foot American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/International Organization for Standardization (ISO) container is designated as the primary size for containerized ammunition shipments. While larger containers may be used in contingency or mobilization operations for munition movements, the capability of the user to handle and transport these containers shall be the overriding factor (e.g., availability or capacity of container-handling equipment).

f. Containers and associated equipment may be procured or leased under the following conditions:

(1) When required to provide a nucleus for use on MSC-controlled ships or required for long-term use on MSC-chartered ships to meet military requirements.

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#### DEFINITIONS

A. Container. An article of transport equipment designed to be transported by various modes of transportation; designed to facilitate and optimize the carriage of goods by one or more modes of transportation without intermediate handling of the contents and equipped with features permitting its ready handling and transfer from one mode to another. Containers may be fully enclosed with one or more doors, open top, refrigerated tank, open rack, gondola, flatrack, and other designs. Included in this definition are modules or clusters that are so configured they can be coupled to form an integral unit regardless of intention to move singly or in multiplex configuration.

B. Associated Equipment. Associated equipment includes such items as the chassis, bogey assembly and coupler devices, but does not include self-propelled vehicles, railcars, and automotive tractors.

C. Self-Sustaining Containership. A containership capable of off-loading/on-loading containers without the assistance of port crane service, through use of shipboard installed cranes.

D. Non Self-Sustaining Containership. A containership which does not have a built in capability to off-load/on-load containers and requires port crane service to perform the function.

E. Full Containership. A ship specially constructed and equipped to carry only containers without associated equipment in all available cargo spaces, either below or above deck. The ship may or may not be a self-sustaining containership.

F. Partial Containership. A ship with a portion of its cargo space specially designed and equipped for the exclusive carriage of containers without associated equipment. Remainder of cargo space available for noncontainerized cargo. The ship may or may not be a self-sustaining containership.

G. Breakbulk Ship. A ship with conventional holds for the stowage of breakbulk cargo, below or above deck, and equipped with cargo handling gear. Ship may also be capable of carrying a limited number of containers above or below deck secured by conventional methods.

H. Multipurpose Ship. A ship capable of carrying various combinations of breakbulk cargo, containers, roll-on or roll-off vehicles and heavy lifts. Ship may be equipped with helicopter platforms, vehicle ramps, and conventional cargo gear. Includes lighter aboard ship and sea barge ships, both designed with the capability of loading and off-loading with onboard cranes, or, in the absence of fixed facilities, for berthing and docking. Barges and lighters are non-self propelled.

I. Point-To-Point Transportation. As applied to the use of containers, point-to-point transportation is defined as that application where the purpose of the container is limited to transportation, and the container is normally stuffed and unstuffed within the free time allowed by the carrier.

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J. Shelters or Special-Purpose Vans. A presized, transportable structure designed for a functional requirement that provides a live-in or work-in capability. This structure can be either rigid or expandable. Insofar as practical, the shelter shall conform to applicable ANSI/ISO container standards.

K. American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/International Organization For Standardization (ISO) Standards. ANSI/ISO have established standards for the design and construction of containers used in intermodal transportation system and have recommended procedures and specifications for their testing. The Department of Defense adheres to those standards to the maximum practical extent. The ANSI/ISO standard nominal, exterior dimensions for surface containers are 8 feet wide, 8 to 9 feet 6 inches in height and vary in length from 5 to 40 feet. The standard nominal lengths are 20 feet and 40 feet.

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(2) The equipment is a special type peculiar to the Department of Defense and unavailable from commercial sources in sufficient quantities to meet essential military needs.

(3) The equipment is required to meet the intra-installation requirements of the Military Departments in the Continental United States or overseas.

(4) The equipment is required to meet contingency or mobilization requirements that cannot otherwise be met by the commercial sector or to meet overriding security considerations.

(5) Satisfactory commercial container service is unavailable at a reasonable cost (reasonable cost being defined as a cost not exceeding that which the commercial carriers charge private shippers) or is available at an excessive cost. (DoD Instruction 4100.33 (reference (c))).

(6) The equipment is required for essential military requirements other than point-to-point transportation. These purposes include, but are not limited to:

(a) Containers preloaded with military supplies necessary to support rapid deployment forces during contingencies or mobilization.

(b) Containers configured with interior bins to stock spare parts or other supplies.

(c) Containers required to remain in the overseas area for extended periods, either loaded or empty, to meet essential military requirements.

(d) Containers, special-purpose vans, or shelters configured to serve operational requirements for mobile facilities, such as automatic data processing units, repair shops, communications vans, fire direction centers, and tactical operation centers. (Reference paragraph D.4., below.)

g. Requests to procure or lease (long-term) containers or associated equipment shall be approved by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics) before initiation of procurement or leasing action by the DoD Components.

h. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/International Organization for Standardization (ISO) container specifications shall be considered in all procurement actions or long-term lease arrangements for tactical shelters or special-purpose vans.

2. Logistic Support Systems. Existing logistic support systems shall be amended to accommodate to DoD policies contained herein, and shall include a mix of commercial and DoD assets which function together to provide a source to user capability for handling, storing and transporting containerized and/or breakbulk shipments.

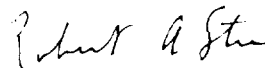
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3. Container Oriented Distribution System (CODS). CODS development is a matter of priority to DoD to exploit fully the efficient and effective use and handling of government-owned or commercially provided containers and associated equipment. A DoD Project Master Plan for a Container Oriented Distribution System with supporting DoD Component plans shall be prepared as prescribed in DoD Instruction 4500.41 (reference (d)). CODS will be developed within the considerations and policies prescribed in DoD Directive 3224.1 (reference (e)) and DoD Directives 5160.10 and 5160.53 (references (f) and (g)).

4. DoD Standard Family of Tactical Shelters. To achieve maximum standardization and reduce inefficiencies, DoD Components shall procure only those shelters, listed in enclosure 2, that have been approved as part of the DoD Standard Family of Tactical Shelters. Exceptions to this policy shall be made only with prior approval of the Joint Committee on Tactical Shelters (JOCOTAS) by submission to the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (Land Warfare), or the applicable Service JOCOTAS representative.

E. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Instruction is effective immediately. Forward two copies of the implementing documents to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics) within 120 days.



Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics)

Enclosures - 2

1. Definitions
2. DoD Standard Family of Tactical Shelters

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DoD Standard Family of Tactical Shelters

This list has been approved by the JOCOTAS. Based on the recommendations of the JOCOTAS group, this list may have future additions or deletions.

Type Shelter		Shipping Mode		Remarks
(Nomenclature) <sup>1</sup>		Size (in feet)	Responsible Service <sup>4</sup>	
Rigid	ISO	8x8x10	Marine Corps	EMI <sup>2</sup>
Rigid	ISO	8x8x20	Marine Corps	EMI
Rigid	ISO	8x8x20	Marine Corps	
Rigid	ISO	8x8x20	Navy	
Rigid	ISO	8x8x20	Army	
Rigid	S-250()/G	7½x7½x7		
Rigid	S-280B/G-C/G	7½x7½x12		
Expandable	ISO	8x8x20	Army	2:1
Expandable	ISO	8x8x20	Army	3:1
Expandable	ISO	8x8x20	Army	7:1 (accordion)
Expandable	ISO	8x8x20	Air Force	7:1
Expandable	S-530-A/G	7½x7½x12		
Knockdown <sup>3</sup>	ISO	2x8x20	Marine Corps	Expandable indefinitely in 8x8x20 feet units
Large Area	ISO	8x8x20	Marine Corps	20x33 feet (2 Packages)
Large Area	ISO	8x8x20	Marine Corps	37x73 feet (5 Packages)
Large Area	ISO	8x8x40	Marine Corps	60x128 feet (8 Packages)
Large Area	ISO	8x8x20	Navy	76x88 feet (2 Packages)
Large Area	ISO	8x8x20	Army	100x104 feet (7 Packages)
Large Area	ISO	8x8x20	Navy	130x140 feet (7 Packages)

<sup>1</sup>The S-numeric designation reflects the assigned nomenclature for the shelter. Those shelters designated ISO (International Organization for Standardization) will be assigned a federal stock number at a future date.

<sup>2</sup>Electromagnetic interference.

<sup>3</sup>Shipped in 4-high stack to form 8x8x20 feet ANSI/ISO compatible unit.

<sup>4</sup>Responsible for research, development, test and evaluation.



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The Army office of primary interest in this joint publication is the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements to HQDA (DALO-TSM) WASH DC 20310. Army users will use DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms).

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